



Helping People Help Themselves

July 1- July 14, 2011

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# SPARE CHANGE

## NEWS

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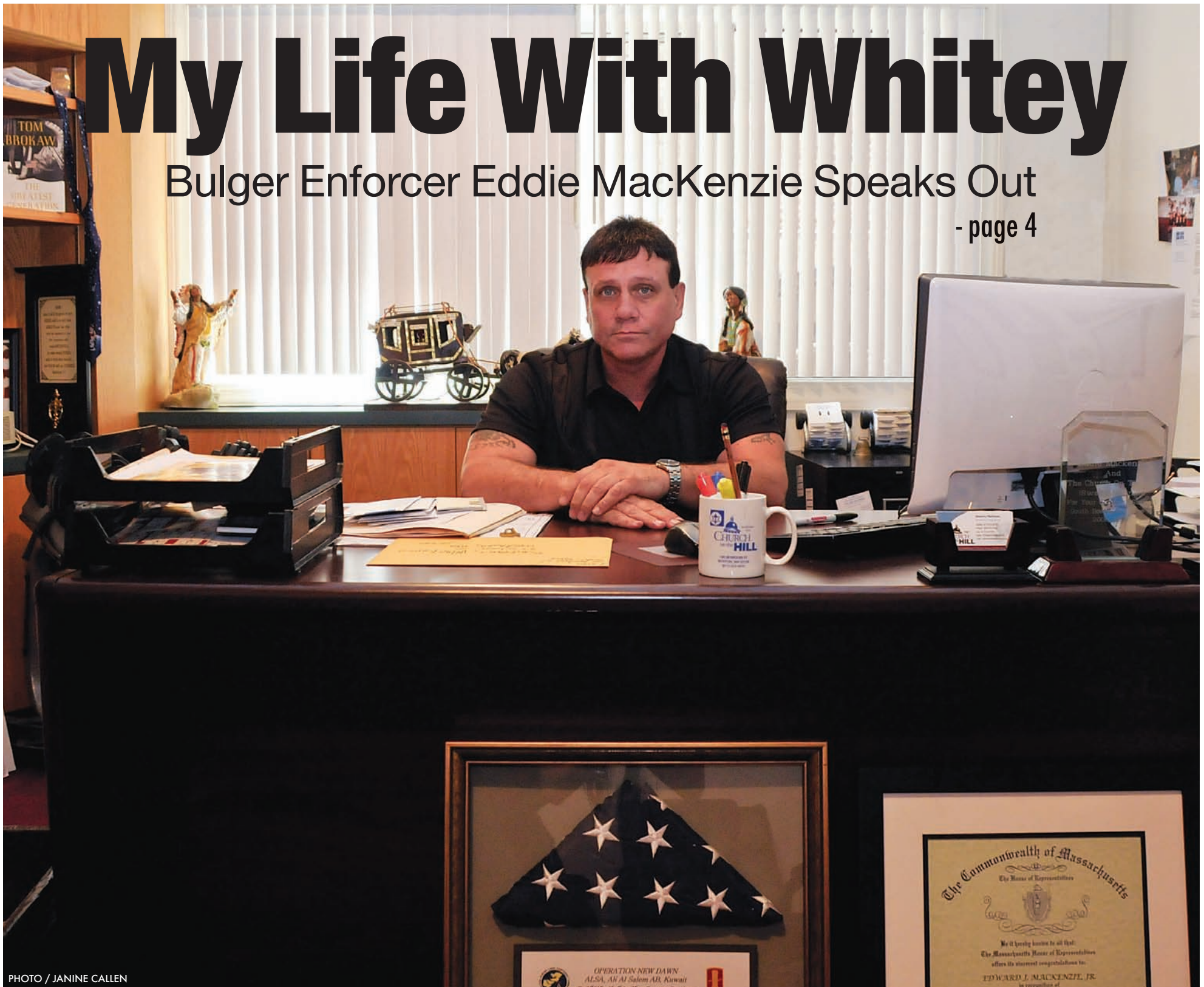


PHOTO / JANINE CALLEN

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Your vendor buys this paper for 25¢ and keeps all the proceeds. Please purchase from vendors with fuchsia badges only.



## Spare Change News

is published by the HOMELESS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (HEP)

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## ANOTHER PICTURE OF ANTHONY'S WEINER SURFACES



### Chris' Quote Corner

*Motivating yourself, setting goals, and working hard will take you a long way. Add self-discipline, and you'll go even farther. It's part of the formula for personal achievement. Without self-discipline, you'll accomplish little, with it, you'll accomplish more than you ever dreamed possible.*

**-Hal Urban**

Either we are growing or we are decaying, at peace or being miserable. Either we are enjoying amazing health, or we are slowly destroying our bodies with the substances we ingest on a daily basis. What state of mind are you presently in?

Christopher Mesfin  
Spare Change News

### Vision & Mission

Spare Change News was founded in 1992 by a group of homeless people and a member of Boston Jobs with Peace. Spare Change is published by the nonprofit organization The Homeless Empowerment Project (HEP).

#### SPARE CHANGE'S GOAL:

"To present, by our own example, that homeless and economically disadvantaged people, with the proper resources, empowerment, opportunity, and encouragement are capable of creating change for ourselves in society."

#### HEP'S OBJECTIVES:

To empower the economically disadvantaged in Greater Boston through self-employment, skill development and self-expression. To create forums, including those of independent media in order to reshape public perception of poverty and homelessness.

## Worldwide Vendor Spotlight: Tapiwa Chemhere

Peter Ascot  
The Big Issue Australia

Tapiwa Chemhere is a Zimbabwean street paper vendor in Australia. He travelled across the Indian Ocean, with his mother and three siblings, to escape the violence and political repression of his country. Today he sells the The Big Issue in Australia and says that chatting with the customers is the highlight of his day.

"I came to Canberra in 2005. We left Zimbabwe because of the economic situation and the violence. I lived in the city, but it was still very violent at the time. You were forced to support the main party, and if you didn't support it they would bomb your house or kill you.

It was very hard. So my mum had to bring us over [to Australia] - my mum, three brothers and my sister.

My mum was in Africa in September to visit our family. She says she wants to go back in five years.

After I came to Canberra, I soon got a job caring for old peo-

ple. I lost it after being admitted to the Psychiatric Services Unit of the Canberra Hospital. I was smoking a lot of weed. I don't smoke any more - it has been two years since I smoked weed.

I love Australia, and I love The Big Issue. I have been selling since 2007. I was told about it by a friend, a youth worker.

I go to the office for [edition launch] barbecues or to see [the managers] Julie or Stuart - they are very helpful. They give me a lot of support, such as writing letters for applications.

I have put in an application for TAFE [Australia's leading vocational education and training provider] next year, to study Business Information and Technology. My reading and writing skills are good, but I need help with English words. I learned English in my country, but the vocabulary in Zimbabwe is different.

I sell at the Canberra Centre in Civic, from 11am until 2pm. When I sell I make a target, and then I go home to do a busi-

ness project online, where I sell things. I work for my customers, because some say 'I'll see you on Thursday' - so I make sure I'm there.

I like going camping and hunting for rabbits and wild pigs in the bushes out of Canberra. I use my mate's rifle. We go to a property, near a national park, where there are feral animals.

I like watching soccer and Formula One. I support Manchester United. I went a couple of times to the street soccer here, but the problem is I wasn't physically fit enough. Running around for two hours... I couldn't do it!

I think things are going okay for me at the moment, and I would like to thank my customers - my loyal customers - for helping me out. Sometimes if you chat with someone like me, selling The Big Issue, if you smile at me and talk with me, it makes my day. I feel very encouraged. I just want to thank all my customers for helping me."

# Common Ground's Brenda Rosen: Expanding Supportive Housing in NYC

Mary M. McLaughlin  
Spare Change News

Common Ground is a renowned, non-profit organization located in New York City that is celebrated both nationally and internationally for its success in the provision of permanent housing coupled with supportive social services to homeless and low-income people. Founded in 1990, it has developed and managed thousands of apartments and other residences for disenfranchised individuals.

The organization's most well-known project is its widely publicized, 1991 renovation of the old Times Square Hotel into 652 studio apartments. This building had previously been nicknamed "Homeless Hell", due to its total of 1,700 building code violations and because its resident population had been infiltrated by drug dealers and prostitutes.

Following the "Housing First" philosophy, which does not mandate sobriety as a prerequisite to obtaining housing, this humanely and creatively managed development reduced street homelessness in the Times Square area of New York City by 87 percent.

While housing stability is often tenuous for this population, Common Ground reports an astonishing 95 percent retention rate, which the organization attributes to its provision of intensive supportive services individually tailored to each tenant. Less than 1 percent of its tenants have been evicted and approximately 4 percent move on to private housing.

Common Ground's "Housing First" model is so successful that the organization's founder, Roseanne Haggerty, was awarded a MacArthur Foundation "genius" award in 2001.

More recently, Haggerty launched the nationwide 100,000 Homes project, a supportive housing initiative with the goal of identifying the 100,000 most vulnerable homeless people across the United States and housing all of them within three years.

In July of 2011, the board of directors of Common Ground plans to announce the creation of a separate organization called Community Solutions, which will focus on homelessness prevention and supportive housing initiatives both nationally and internationally. Haggerty will head this new organization.

Brenda Rosen, who has been with Common Ground since 1999, was



recently promoted to acting executive director of the organization from her most recent position as director of housing operations and programs.

While it is not unusual to discover that the founder of an organization like Common Ground has a compelling personal history that has manifested itself in a visionary and humanitarian direction, the executives who follow are often characterized by far more conventional backgrounds.

A very polished and professional attorney by education and training, Brenda Rosen has personally experienced the shock and hardship of homelessness.

This difficult chapter of her life began very suddenly when she was only 10 years old. Rosen's parents had just moved her family from their residence in the Bronx area of New York City to a more desirable apartment on Roosevelt Island, which is located immediately adjacent to Manhattan in the East River.

Returning with her older brother from an afternoon of swimming at a neighborhood pool ten days later, Rosen discovered their new apartment being consumed in flames. Her family's residence and all of its contents were destroyed in the fire.

Rosen vividly recalls going in a wet swimsuit and flip-flops to the apartment management office, which was located in another building in the complex, to ask for permission to use the telephone in order to call her parents, who were both at work.

The first of many harsh realities precipitated by homelessness kicked in immediately; the management company refused to allow Rosen and her

brother to use the office telephone, cruelly telling them that their policy did not permit its use by tenants. In addition, when her parents returned and requested assistance from the management company, none was provided. They were told to seek assistance from an organization like the Red Cross.

Like so many homeless people, Rosen's family had no living relatives available to help. It was only due to intense advocacy by a group of neighbors, all strangers, that the management company gave the family permission to seek shelter in a vacant apartment.

Due to the unfortunate timing of the fire, Rosen's parents lost most of their important papers and had not yet acquired renter's insurance. With no clothes, food, furniture or bedding, they moved into a vacant apartment in the complex and slept on the bare floor.

Neighbors and work colleagues brought clothes and furnishings to the family, some of it used, some paid for with cash raised in collections taken up in their behalf. It took her working-class parents several years to get the family back to a normal living situation.

The experience of dealing with such harsh and unresponsive authorities during this crisis impacted Rosen deeply. As she stated, "People shouldn't be treated this way." By contrast, receiving kind and caring supportive services from neighbors who were then strangers taught her that "Strangers will go out of their way to help strangers."

Rosen made up her mind to become a social worker but shifted her career direction towards public policy, after completing an externship in an honors program while studying sociology

and urban studies at Hunter College in New York City. She'd been selected for the college's Public Services Scholar Program. During an assignment to the New York City Council Committee on General Welfare, she gained insight that persuaded her that she could have a greater impact on policy as an attorney.

Rosen graduated from Benjamin Cardozo Law School and accepted a position with the Department of Homeless Services in New York City. She ran the Emergency Assistance Unit, which provided shelter to homeless families and adults.

After several years at DHS, she was contacted by Haggerty and asked to become the first director of the Prince George Hotel, Common Ground's then newest supportive housing development. Rosen has been with the organization ever since.

Common Ground is New York City's largest developer of supportive housing and it is also an award-winning property manager. Having been closely involved with the organization's programs and services for the past twelve years, Rosen is expected to pursue its supportive housing development objectives in the Northeast as well as oversee management of supportive housing developments owned by Common Ground's partners.

In addition, she will direct Common Ground's renowned "Street to Home" program, its new homelessness prevention program, its extensive research programs, its innovative Hospital-to-Home program, and its Foyer program for homeless teens exiting foster care.

Common Ground operates with the confidence that ending homelessness is within its reach. Its housing costs approximately \$36 per night to operate, which is significantly less than public expenditures of \$54 per night for a city shelter bed, \$74 for a state prison cell, \$164 for a city jail cell, \$467 for a psychiatric bed and \$1,185 for a hospital bed.

With homelessness growing across our country in recent years, especially in our nation's suburban and rural areas, it will be fascinating to learn what new initiatives Common Ground will launch under Brenda Rosen's client-centered and humanitarian stewardship.

MARY M. MCLAUGHLIN, Ph.D., is a regular contributor to *Spare Change*



# Eddie MacKenzie Talks About Life as an Enforcer for Whitey Bulger

Adam Sennott  
Spare Change News

He learned how to fight and survive on the streets and lived under a strict code of silence. But he believes his former boss, James "Whitey" Bulger, who was apprehended by the FBI on June 23rd, is going to name names.

"Absolutely, he's probably going to try and help Katherine Greig out or he's just going to play his little game and go out being the scumbag loser that he is."

Edward MacKenzie Jr., known as Eddie Mac on the streets of Boston, is a former Marine, a three-time national heavyweight kickboxing champion, and a Golden Gloves Champion. For seven years, he was a drug dealer and enforcer for Boston mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger. However, in 1990, after being betrayed by Bulger, MacKenzie reached a plea agreement with the FBI and assisted in one of the largest cocaine busts ever. He later went on to earn a bachelor's degree from UMass Boston in pre-law.

To say MacKenzie had a difficult time growing up would be an understatement. He spent his childhood in the foster care system in Jamaica Plain. MacKenzie also suffered sexual abuse and was raped when he was nine, and then again when he was 19.

"You form a resilience at an early age when you're preyed upon, and then you make a decision, in this jungle that I grew up in," said MacKenzie. "I am not longer going to be preyed upon, I'm going to become the predator. I want to eat now. I don't want to be eaten anymore. So that's, I think, what happened."

When he was 12, he met Frankie MacDonald, who would become his best friend. When the MacDonald family moved to South Boston, MacKenzie went with them. In 1999, Frankie's brother Michael would later write the book, *All Souls: A Family Story From Southie*.

"When I was growing up, they helped me. When Frankie was moving to South Boston I moved there with him," said MacKenzie. "It was like I finally belonged."



MacKenzie dropped out of high school in the tenth grade. In 1978, at the age of 19, he was arrested for armed home invasion after trying to recover money from a drug deal where his brother was robbed.

Around the same time, MacKenzie met Boston defense lawyer Al Nugent, who he referred to as "Boss." MacKenzie and Nugent formed a strong friendship, and Nugent would later help MacKenzie set up his plea deal with the FBI. This time, in order to avoid prison,

MacKenzie signed up for the military and would spend the next three and a half years in the marines.

"I did an armed robbery of some drug dealer who also beat my brother up," said MacKenzie. "I went back and got my brother's money back with my Mossberg shotgun and I got caught, so I was in front of the judge, and back then they gave you a choice, you either go into the service or to jail."

After completing his time in the military, MacKenzie returned to South

Boston where he built his reputation as a fighter, both in the ring and on the streets. MacKenzie trained at the Chinese Academy of Martial Arts in Chinatown and eventually opened his own gym in South Boston. He also won nationals in kickboxing three years in a row.

Although MacKenzie was building a reputation for himself as a fighter, he would soon attract the attention of the most ruthless man in Boston for different reasons. MacKenzie and a friend had robbed the house of a woman he knew. What MacKenzie didn't know was that her uncle was in the mob, and that Whitey Bulger and his friend Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi would be looking for him.

"I was practicing my 200-300 kicks that I used to do every day in my big mirror and I see him and Steve Flemmi walking up the stairs unannounced and I run over, I was going to kick them right down the stairs," MacKenzie said. "He said, 'My name's Jimmy, I need to talk to you about something.' And I didn't know who Jimmy was, you know."

"He goes, 'Some people call me Whitey, and I don't like being called that.' So once he said Whitey I recognized that name, being from South Boston, and I was like, uh oh."

Bulger then asked MacKenzie who had helped him during the heist. However, MacKenzie stuck to his code of silence and loyalty and risked his own life by refusing to tell Bulger. Intrigued by MacKenzie's loyalty, Bulger gave him a pass.

"He asked me who I did it with, and I said, I can't tell you that, if you're going to kill me, no sense in killing my buddy. I will just have to go it alone," MacKenzie said. "He put his right hand on my shoulder and says, 'I like that, you've got some honor. I am going to get you a bye, I am going to get you a pass.'"

"I was very relieved and as he walked down the stairs he turned and looked over his shoulder and he goes, 'But I may need a favor someday.'"

A year later, in 1985, MacKenzie would get his chance to show off

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PHOTO / JANINE CALLEN



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his fighting skills to Bulger. Timmy Connolly had asked MacKenzie to take care of some bikers that were causing trouble at Connolly's Corner Café, a bar he had recently bought. MacKenzie agreed, and he and another friend got their Sap Gloves, professional fighting gloves lined with lead at the knuckles, and went to the bar one night.

**'Some people call me Whitey, and I don't like being called that.' So once he said Whitey I recognized that name, being from South Boston, and I was like, uh oh."**

"We slipped our Sap Gloves on and we knocked every f\*\*\*in' thing out in there, including the girls, the big fat biker girls. One biker girl threw a bottle at me, I knocked her right out," said MacKenzie. "At least 20 knock-outs, it looked like a mass unit outside, you know, five or six ambulances taking people out on stretchers with their cheekbones smashed, jaws broken.

"You get hit with those Sap Gloves, man, it's like getting hit with a bat, and you've got two professional fighters, me and my buddy, who knew how to throw bombs. Let's just say the Southie Blindside was in full effect that night."

When Bulger found out what had happened, he was impressed. Not only did MacKenzie take care of the bikers, he knew enough not to talk about it afterwards. MacKenzie also became the manager of Connolly's Corner Café shortly thereafter.

"He loved it," MacKenzie said of Bulger's reaction. "He loved how close-mouthed I was. I didn't talk about it, I didn't tell anybody it was me. I could sit in the car with all my boys and they would be like, 'Oh my God can you believe two guys went in there and did all that,' and I am like, 'No, you're kidding me. Really?' I didn't have no ego back then, I was just Eddie Mac."

Once MacKenzie was successful with one job, he got called for another. This time, someone had hit the wife of one of Bulger's close friends. MacKenzie was supposed to make an example of him.

"I went out and I found the guy, he

was passed out drunk in some trailer right next to a house," MacKenzie said. "I looked in and I said if I punch him in the face a few times he's going to get over that, we all recover from beatings. So I saw a cinder block out there and I grabbed the cinder block. The guy had his leg, it was leaning up straight on a chair and the rest of his body was on the floor. So I smashed his leg in half with the cinder block and just started beating the [crap] out of him."

Nearly a month later, at MacKenzie's bar, he would run into the guy whose leg he had snapped in half. MacKenzie bought him a beer.

"The weirdest part was, three or four weeks later the guy come hobbling into my bar with this something that looked like it was right out a Star Wars café contraption wrapped around his leg with all these screws and pins and stuff and he goes, 'I'm sorry dude, can I still drink here?'" MacKenzie said. "So I bought him a Budweiser and I said, 'Yeah, sure, why not.' I made my point, he's not going to hit women anymore."

Although MacKenzie worked for Bulger, the two weren't very close. In fact, MacKenzie noted that Bulger wasn't close with many people at all.

"I wasn't close to Whitey, none of us were," said MacKenzie. "The only ones that were, were Stephan Flemmi and Kevin Weeks and them. We were just soldiers following Caesar."

Along with doing jobs for Bulger, MacKenzie was also running Connolly's Corner Café, where he was dealing cocaine and marijuana. At first, MacKenzie had tried to clean up the bar and get rid of the drugs. That was when Bulger stepped in.

"I was poisoned when I got to that bar," MacKenzie said. "People were selling drugs in there and I was knocking them out, trying to clean the place up, no drug dealing in my bar, and this, that and the other thing. That lasted a couple of months and then I got a visit from Whitey and Stephan Flemmi. They said, 'Look, these people work for us, you can't put your hands on them like that.'

"That was the end of my nice reputation of being a martial arts instructor. I had a bad rep for being a street fighter, but I wasn't a drug dealer or anything, I wasn't into that kind of stuff, you know, until I got to that bar and I quickly said, well, what the hell am I going to let them sell for, I'll sell my own and make the money."

MacKenzie says he was poisoned by the bar and blinded by cash. He would bring in \$100,000 a week.

"Put it this way. I had a couple of daughters and I wanted to go to Disney World so I'd just grab a bag of cash and buy four f\*\*\*in' first-class tickets to Disney World, pay for everything

in cash at the Grand Floridian, the best hotel for a week, I'll see you later," said MacKenzie. "Live la vida loca."

MacKenzie notes that while his marriages didn't work out while he was an enforcer in the Boston mob, he was always there for his kids, and he ensured that they lived the best lives possible.

"I was married to the lady who had my first kids, but it was a happy divorce," MacKenzie said. "I have been very honorable when it comes to my children. I stepped up to the plate for every single one of them. They all knew they had a father. I just haven't had luck staying with the mothers. It's not like I'm a pig or a womanizer or nothing like that, although I have been called that in my past, but that's misunderstood, man, it's just my mob lifestyle. It's incompatible with coming home at 4:30 in the morning and having a family. So, it didn't work, but I certainly supported them."

MacKenzie continued working for Bulger and as the manager of Connolly's Corner Café until 1990, when he was ratted out to the FBI by none other than Whitey Bulger, who MacKenzie would later find out had been an FBI informant.

"The FBI, DEA, they all swept up fifty-one of us," said MacKenzie. "Fifty-one of us got indicted in 1990, ten of us went to Danbury Federal Prison, and that's where I found out he was a rat," said MacKenzie.

"When I went to Danbury Federal Prison the first person I met was Raymond Patriarca, the godfather of all New England," said MacKenzie. "The first thing he said was, 'You know why you're all here, don't you?' I said yeah, of course — I got caught. He goes, 'No, you didn't get caught, you got ratted out by your boss.' People ask me, 'How did you feel about that, Ed?' and I go, 'How do you think Caesar felt when he got shanked by Brutus? It was very painful. We were in shock.'"

After MacKenzie and 50 other people were arrested, the FBI was looking for information on Bulger. MacKenzie refused to say anything about his former boss and instead gave them info on a massive cocaine deal he had been setting up with a Columbian drug dealer.

"I went to the FBI and I says, look I got nothing to say about Whitey, any of my friends or nothing like that," MacKenzie said. "But I don't owe this

Columbian guy anything, I've only known him a couple of years. I'll give you him if you give me probation and let me put my life back together and be a father to my children."

The FBI agreed to cut MacKenzie a deal in exchange for his Columbian contact. Now he found himself in an uncomfortable position, wearing a wire and helping the FBI set up a sting operation that would land 320 kilos of cocaine.

"I had a toilet-bowl-seat head since I was about 22 or 23, my receding hairline, and probably seven strands of hair on my head by the time I am 23 years old, so I went to Sy Sperling's Hair Club for Men and I got a hair piece," said MacKenzie. "So I got a rug, you know, and that's where I would put the wire, there underneath the rug."

Once MacKenzie was wired up, he went over by the Harvard Courtyard near Harvard University to meet one of his contacts. He was immediately patted down.

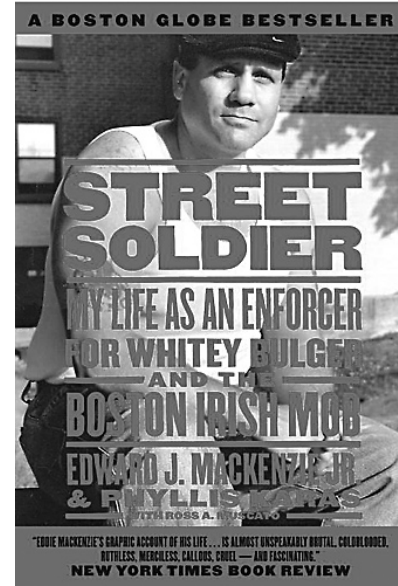
"I am in the Harvard Courtyard of Harvard University, because he liked to meet there and try and blend in and look like we were students, because he was Columbian, you know," said MacKenzie. "He takes me into a hallway and I've got a shirt and tank top on and he starts to pat me down and he says, 'Nothing personal, brother, but I've got to be careful.'

"He starts f\*\*\*in' patting me down and I've got this bug in my hair piece and my hands are up in the air letting him par me down and I am saying to myself, if he find this bug he's dead right here, I am ending it now. I will choke him out and murder him, I'm not letting him leave if he finds it."

However, he didn't find it. Shortly thereafter, the FBI carried out one of the largest sting operations in history, netting 318 kilos of cocaine which MacKenzie estimated to be worth about \$20-30 million dollars.

MacKenzie would get his life back and go on to earn his G.E.D. and eventually a bachelor's degree in pre-law from UMass Boston. Today, MacKenzie is an employee at The Church on The Hill in Boston, where he organizes senior and youth programs. Most recently, he organized a trip for 250 kids to go to Six Flags.

ADAM SENNOTT was the Editor of Spare Change News from July 2010-July 2011.



Cover of Eddie MacKenzie's 2003 Book "Street Soldier"



# Bike Share Rolls into Boston

Robert Sondak  
Spare Change News

For Bostonians tired of packed MBTA trains and traffic jams, a third mode of transportation is coming to Boston.

Hubway, a new bike sharing program run by Alta Bicycle Share of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has entered into agreement with Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino to bring an urban bike share program to the city of Boston. Alta and its technology partner, Public Bike Systems Company of Montreal, won the initial Request For Proposal (RFP) competition in August 2009. After Boston received \$3 million from the Federal Transportation Administration for the planned bike program, Alta submitted a second (RFP) and won again.

"We worked over the winter on the contract," said Alison Cohen, Alta Bicycle Share president. "We signed the contract with Boston in April 2011."

The Hubway bike share program will feature 61 solar powered bike check-out stations open around the city and will offer a total of 600 bikes for people to use. The startup program has been designated for seven Boston neighborhoods. These communities include Kenmore Square, Roxbury, The South End, Longwood Medical Center, Allston, Brighton, and the Back Bay.

"We hope to launch in July," said Cohen. "We couldn't be more excited to make this plan a reality."

Hubway will use a swipe card on which money will be stored on the card to be used to pay for trips. The cost will be \$5 per day with free trips 30 minutes or less. Annually memberships will be \$85. The bicycles and the automated bike stations will be built by Public Bike System of Montreal. Alta will manage and operate the system under a three year contract. The individual bike stations will 41 feet long and offer an average of 10 bikes each. The structures will be fully removable and the stations would be taken off the street and sidewalks from December through February.

Even though Hubway will start in mid-season, Cohen highlighted that 3,000 people will utilize the program initially. This ridership base will grow in year two to 10,000 people. Planners are hopping Hubway will generate 100,000 trips the first year.

"We have five employees in Boston right now" said Cohen. "We will be hiring many more to help with the assembly, installation and operation of the system."



Boston "Bike Czar" Nicole Freedman and Mayor Tomas M. Menino at the Hubway Bike Share Announcement at City Hall on April 21.

Alta Bicycle Share operates two bike share systems in Melbourne, Australia and Washington, D. C. In May 2010, Alta launched the Melbourne bike program with the Royal Auto Club of Victoria (RACV). The Melbourne startup was with 600 bikes. In September 2010, Alta launched the Washington D. C. region Capital Bike share program with 1,100 bikes. In addition to system management, they have completed a location analysis for the Minneapolis Bike Share Ride program. This system will be the fifth in the United States following; Denver, Miami, Minneapolis, and Washington D.C.

According to the Alta Bicycle Share website, no state or local taxpayer dollars were used initially in the Boston program. The city received grants from the federal government in the total of \$3 million which coupled with corporate donations should to cover start-up cost. The city has also received a dozen sponsorship pledges from corporations, universities, and hospitals totaling \$1.5 million, including one made by New Balance shoes of \$600,000 for the naming rights. Nicole Freeman of Boston Bikes an advisory group for Mayor Thomas M. Menino stated that these

funds were enough to purchase at least 500 bikes and install at least 50 stations.

Alta program manager, Alison Cohen and launch director Peter Hoban are now meeting with local commissions, such as the South East Landmarks Commission (SELDC), to get final approval from them prior to installing these stations in those neighborhoods. Hoban described three South End locations: considered as stations: in the Boston Center for the Arts Plaza at 539 Tremont, the South End Library at 685 Tremont St and Massachusetts Avenue between Albany St and Harrison Avenue.

Residents and business owners who attended the meeting expressed interest in the concept of bike sharing, but had concerns over the first two proposed location BCA Plaza and the South End Library due to high pedestrian, auto, business traffic and access for the disabled throughout the day.

The SELDC ended approving all three locations, the commission asked Alta to do their best to move the bike station away from the library wall and toward the brick stripping highlighting the property boundary or moving further down the sidewalk. If Alta moves anyone of the three proposed stations

out of the area they will need to come back to the July SELDC meeting to get another approval.

"We are working very hard on station locations," said Cohen. "We are working with local businesses to get locations that work for the system and their businesses."

Cohen pointed out some very interesting facts about the SELDC meetings.

"You have to go before the local commissions for approval," said Cohen. "It sometimes can be difficult for people to envision a bike share station in their neighborhood."

"It can be difficult for people to envision a bike system in their neighborhood," said Cohen. "We will respond quickly and try to resolve the issues this summer."

ROBERT SONDAK is a Spare Change venter and writer. Robert graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Massachusetts, Boston College of Public and Community Service (CPCS). Robert also minored in Urban Planning and Advocacy. Currently Robert is the Executive Director of the Nutrition Education Outreach Project, [www.neopneopt.blogspot.com](http://www.neopneopt.blogspot.com).



# Bad Ride on the MBTA

Beatrice Bell  
Spare Change News

I was supposed to be going to my daughter's graduation at the Matthews Arena at Northeastern University. I never made it to her graduation.

I caught the #39 bus at Copley Square going to Forest Hill Station. I decided to take the bus to Forest Hills so I could catch the #16 bus to Franklin Park. I was planning on scouting out a spot to have a barbecue party for my daughter in case the weather improved. I had a big blue Sterilite container with the barbecue supplies inside of it with me.

I was nodding off and on as the bus traveled toward Forest Hill Station. We rounded the corner of Huntington Avenue and made our way up South Huntington Avenue when all of a sudden I heard a sound like the hub cap coming off the bus and the tire going flat. I remembered that sound from this past winter when a #42 bus had a flat tire as it was leaving Dudley Station.

I awoke to the sound and the next thing I know I was flying down the bus aisle along with my container and two other women near me.

One elderly woman lost her coffee and wound up being under me. Another woman and I helped the elderly woman up from the ground. We asked the driver if she was okay and she said yes. She asked us who was hurt and we let her know. I was shaking more than normal because of the incident - I am epileptic.

There were about 12 or 13 passengers on the bus along with the driver, but only six of us got hurt badly. I went flying down the aisle and tried to grab hold of something like the railings when the bus crashed into what I guess is a small black Toyota Corolla or something like it.

I asked the driver what happened and

she said that the bus wouldn't respond to her. "The bus started pulling to the right and I tried to correct it by trying to turn it to the left but it wouldn't respond. I tried to use the brakes but they wouldn't work. That's why we crashed." I asked her if there was a flat tire because I heard a sound like a flat tire and she said no there was no flat tire.

When the Fire Department showed up they made assessments of who was hurt and who wasn't. They asked the driver what happened and she told the same story that the bus started going to the right, she couldn't get it to go to the left, she tried pumping the brakes to get the bus to stop but the bus wouldn't respond. They did brief evaluations of me, the driver and the other hurt passengers. When they asked me how I was I told them that I was a little bit more shaky than normal and I didn't know if it was due to being shook up because of the accident or if it was because of my having a seizure.

I told them to check out the elderly woman near me because she was complaining about hitting her head and neck pain. She said she was getting a headache. They checked her over before the ambulance workers arrived. After the ambulance workers arrived they checked on the driver, me and the elderly woman and three people I hadn't noticed earlier in the back of the bus. The Boston police showed up next and started asking us questions. The driver told the same story again but this time the Boston police asked her something that we never thought to ask: "Did a car cut you off?" We passengers never thought to ask that. She stated no that the bus wouldn't respond to her. They asked about her injuries and she stated that when the bus crashed she hit her head on the steering wheel. Her head and neck were hurt-

ing. They put her on a body board with a neck immobilizer to remove her from the bus.

The elderly woman and a young black woman in the back of the bus were taken off the same way too. The other two passengers, I never knew what was wrong with them but later I saw them at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center's Emergency Department, they were on stretchers. I rode in the ambulance with the driver over to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center's Emergency Department.

The hospital did X-rays on my left knee because I kept having pain. They took a long time to get me checked over properly and to release me. I left BIDMC West at 3:30 and I got to my daughter's graduation at 4:30. By then everybody was leaving. I missed everything. All I heard on my phone was my son Joshua yelling for his sister "Nitanju!" at around 3:15 when she got her diploma.

I missed seeing that moment all because of being in a bus accident that could've been prevented. I know you think I'm sounding accusatory and angry with the MBTA, but I'm not. I'm grateful to be alive and I got some nice shots of my son and daughter having fun after her graduation. I never had the barbecue that I wanted but I still had fun with my kids. Facts are people I've known about other instances where the #39 buses have broken down and not responded to the drivers' commands and a crash occurred or almost occurred.

My knowledge goes back two or three years ago when I just missed being in an accident going down South Huntington Avenue on the #39 bus. The MBTA says they have cameras on the new buses but the bus I was on (#1034) I never saw a camera. Usually the cameras I've noticed are visible to everybody on the bus.

They're those black globes you see up above the fare box squarely positioned up high so they can see the whole bus. The closest I noticed to a camera was a skinny black woman using her cell phone camera or digital camera to take pictures of the bus from outside of the bus. She was one of the passengers that didn't get hurt as far as I could tell.

An MBTA Ride driver asked us if we were okay and he tried to calm us down until the fire and ambulance workers arrived. Somebody behind him started joking about putting the video of the accident on YouTube. I think the person was one of the other passengers that didn't get hurt in the crash. I feel sad for all the people who got hurt worse than me.

I'd like to know an answer to some questions ... Why are the #39 buses on the road when they're not working properly and there are only a limited amount of them set up with cameras? Who is going to take the blame for the mechanical failure for the buses and then get fired or who will take other actions to prevent future accidents like what happened to me, the driver and the other four passengers? Why is the MBTA risking our lives and money on stupid things like heaters at bus stops that have no walls instead of ensuring our safety from point A to B?

The only explanation I got from the MBTA was this terse email from T spokesman Joe Pesaturo, which I quote in full: "Yes, Beatrice, the vehicle experienced a mechanical problem." A follow-up email asking for further information went unanswered.

Since the accident I've spent days in pain but I will recover from the injuries. Missing my daughter's high school graduation hurts more.

BEATRICE BELL is a vendor/writer for Spare Change News.

## Why is Homelessness so Hard to Solve? Think Differently: It's all in Your Head

John M. Fox  
Spare Change News

"Why is it," prompted one workshop participant, "that after spending countless millions of dollars, having worked so hard, and having gathered some of the finest minds available to focus on the problem - that providers, agencies, and other entities in Massachusetts are still unable to make a lasting dent in

what remains a homelessness crisis in the Commonwealth?"

This question, informally raised by a longtime professional in the field, instantly became a foundation for discussion in "A Systems Approach to Solving Homelessness and Other Public Problems" - a workshop presented by the Collins Center for Public Management and cosponsored by the Center for Social Policy. Both organi-

zations are part of the University of Massachusetts McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies in Boston. The half-day workshop, attended by more than 40 people, including shelter providers, city and town officials, State Senate officials, policy-research professionals, law-enforcement officials, and others, was held on June 16 at the UMass Boston campus.

"We wanted to have people under-

stand that the problem of homelessness is more complex than people realize ... that solutions don't get implemented, and why they don't get implemented," said David Peter Stroh, speaker and founding partner of Bridgeway Partners.

"Systems Approach" workshop co-speakers Stroh and John McGah have devoted their careers to evolving new

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# Boston Pride 2011



PHOTO / AMANDA VIVICAN

Michael Simpson  
Spare Change News

On Pride Day, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Pride Day brunch welcomed attendees at the 2011 Pride Day Parade. Amanda Vivican, a photographer for Spare Change News, and I walked into City Hall and saw people everywhere. There was a joyous, celebratory mood. All of this said, implicitly, "Welcome to Pride Day."

Inside the hall people had gathered. They sat in the chambers, waiting for the speakers to officially begin the announcements of the awards, which would be given out to people who stood out and helped make a difference in opening dialogues with those who may not have any knowledge of what it's truly like to be different. Everyone opened their arms and hearts on this day and embraced the true meaning of

Pride Day.

Sue Hyde, Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Alliance, was the host speaker and she gave a joyous speech about the work being done in this community of Cambridge and the opportunities that the city has given to the gay community.

One outreach group, Youth on Fire, was acknowledged and given an award for its outstanding work with the youth in and around Harvard Square. Mandy Lussier, a Health Educator with Youth on Fire, was given an award for her contributions in providing opportunities to young people on the streets. Up until this time I never knew that Youth on Fire existed, nor was I familiar with the work that they have been doing over the years. John Gatto—Senior Vice President of Programs for the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts—presented the award to Ms. Lussier

alongside of Sue Hyde.

Youth on Fire (YOF) is an important organization that helps kids who have nowhere else to go but the streets because their parents kicked them out of their homes for being gay or transgender. YOF has become a young people's support and safety net, enabling them to remain as safe as possible from the negative encounters of the streets. I found this information to be as important as Pride Day itself because it gave clarity to the meaning of the word caring.

After listening to the speakers we set out for the parade on the busses that shuttled us to the parade route at Mass Ave. and Tremont. Amanda and I got off the bus and photographed the events as they played out in the parade. It was raining lightly at the time, but this did not stop the parade.

Everything was in full bloom—the

revelers were reveling, all the bars were full with people wearing rainbow colors, from beads and clappers to wristbands. There were floats and music from the clubs Machine and Jocks. We also saw ladies on stilts and ladies with mustaches from Trani Wreck. Representatives from the department store Macy's were also there, as were people from Tufts New England Medical Center and Brigham & Women's Hospital.

People cheered as we walked alongside of the parade. There was no stopping the party, from its beginning to its end at City Hall Plaza in Boston. More than 50,000 people watched the parade procession as it moved along Boylston Street and up to Beacon Street. I was very proud to be there and to show some support for Pride Day.

MICHAEL SIMPSON is a vendor/writer for Spare Change News.



# Why We Can't Find Osama Bin Laden Or Whitey Bulger

Marc D. Goldfinger

*written in 2004 — Osama Bin Laden — 12 years to catch  
Whitey Bulger — over 16 years to catch*

Everyone mills about. They wonder  
where is all the money going? Not  
to the poor, they haven't had it  
for years, decades, longer  
than that. Buildings fall

down, people die, planes  
fly, more people die, all  
the blocks are scattered, we burn  
some of them to cook rice  
someone dropped from  
the sky. Everyone mills

about. Some people we are  
looking for hide. They are very  
good at hiding, better than  
we are at looking. All over the world  
we throw bullets and bombs

at people who pray to the East, some  
who pray to the West, some who just  
pray we will stop throwing  
bullets and bombs. Everyone  
mills about. They wonder where  
the money is going. Someone told me  
it was all stacked on a card table

in a dark basement in Boston. Candles  
are stuck in posts on the walls, guardians  
with official credentials are posted  
at the doors, no one comes in  
or out without knowing what

to say. There are two men seated  
at the card table, one man is Osama  
Bin Laden, the other is Whitey  
Bulger, they look at their hands  
filled with cards. Both of them  
hold the Ace of Spades, one of them  
has the Queen of Hearts. I won't tell you  
who has the Queen. They call  
for a new deck because one  
thinks the other may be cheating.  
All the officials are wearing scarves over

their eyes. Everyone mills about until someone  
finds a new deck of cards. Everyone  
will play this time, many men enter  
the basement and their faces are all  
known to everyone. They are smiling

and shaking hands. They begin to empty  
their pockets, the money is piled up on  
the table. Outside, the world, where the rest  
of the people are, the schools crumble,  
gunfire is heard, children scrape

rice from broken bowls, their mothers  
are crying, their fathers have strapped  
guns to their bodies, they go out  
to die. One by one everyone who  
dreams of a better world wakes up.

PHOTO / REUTERS HUGH GENTRY



Poems may be submitted to: Marc D. Goldfinger,  
76 Unity Ave. Belmont MA, 02478

or email: [sparechangepoetry@gmail.com](mailto:sparechangepoetry@gmail.com). SCN cannot return poetry  
submissions, and authors will be contacted only if their poems are published.

## Every Thursday

Squawk Coffeehouse, 9 pm  
1555 Mass Ave., Cambridge  
Open mike for poets and musicians.

## Every Saturday

Out of the Blue Gallery, 8 pm  
106 Prospect St., Cambridge  
\$3-5 suggested donation.  
671-354-5287

## Every Sunday

Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam, 7 pm  
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge  
\$5. 671-547-0759

## Every Monday

Out of the Blue Gallery, 8 pm  
106 Prospect St., Cambridge  
\$4 suggested donation.  
671-354-5287

## Every Wednesday

Boston Poetry Slam, 8 pm  
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave.,  
Cambridge  
\$3. 21+. 617-354-2685

## Second Thursday of Every Month

Tapestry of Voices, 6:30 pm  
Borders, 10 School St., Boston  
Free. 617-557-7188

## Second Tuesday of Every Month

Newton Free Library, 7 pm  
330 Homer St. 617-796-1360

## Third Saturday of Every Month

Boston Haiku Society meeting,  
2-6 pm  
Kaji Aso Studio,  
40 St. Stephen St., Boston  
\$3. 617-247-1719

Poetry event listings may be  
submitted to  
[sceditor@homelessempowerment.org](mailto:sceditor@homelessempowerment.org)



# Voices From The Streets

Voices from the Streets — a forum for those whose voices are too often ignored. From narratives to opinion to advice, these writers portray a unique perspective on life that might otherwise go unnoticed. Below, find that turning an ear towards those normally silenced opens the door to understanding and relating to those who have faced life on the street.

## Bulger Brothers Guilty Of Loyalty

Marc D. Goldfinger  
Spare Change News



William Bulger grew up in a time when values were quite different than they are today. Loyalty was highly regarded in most circles. William is guilty. He is guilty of loyalty to his brother Whitey.

Both brothers grew up in poverty in a South Boston housing project. Other than that, their paths were extremely diverse. Whitey succumbed to the pressures of the streets while William overcame them.

In today's world, loyalty is a dying virtue and it is refreshing to watch a man risk all he has honestly worked for to protect his brother. In these trying times snitchery and turncoating to save one's own skin has become an art.

The corporate raiders who savaged the retirement funds of the workers of Enron had no sense of loyalty toward those whom they were positioned to protect. What a difference, also, between the spilling of the Bill Clinton story and the tale of John F. Kennedy and his intern.

While everyone today is willing to

fill in all the sordid details for personal gain, the other side of that story is the respectable silence, the honorable discretion of Kennedy's lover as opposed to the story of Monica Lewinsky who just couldn't keep her mouth shut.

In the new millennium, betrayal is the code word. No more are loyal workers respected by their employers. Lovers can't wait to kiss and tell. It is expected that all men are willing to turn their brothers over to the system; family ties are meaningless.

William Bulger has committed himself to a lifetime of service for the people of Massachusetts. Has he received the financial benefits for his years of service? Of course he has. These remunerations are not excessive and are well-deserved.

He is a tough man who rose to his current position by dint of hard work and sacrifice. His heart aches for the plight and mistakes of his brother Whitey Bulger. If he could have done something to change the course of Whitey's life, he certainly would have. He tried. But we are all powerless over the actions of other people. All we can do is the next right thing ourselves, in

**GOLDFINGER continued on next page**



tales from the curb

## A Scare and an Awakening



James Shearer  
Spare Change News

As many of you probably saw last issue, for the first time in a long time I didn't have a column. No I didn't miss deadline, not on purpose anyway. I ran into a small problem along the way.

It all started on the Thursday before deadline. I was on my way to the shelter and I was running late and the kitchen would be closed by the time I arrived, not that I could stand one more night of pasta anyway. So I stopped at the store to pick something up, which I ate once I got in. It was chicken and potato salad and suddenly I got a stomach ache. Nonetheless, I figured it would go away and went to bed.

The next morning it was still there. Again I figured it would go away. I came to the office early, had some coffee and looked at my calendar for the day. I knew that my column was due so I began to work on it. The pain in my stomach worsened to the point where I could feel it in my chest, and by the time one of our distribution people got in I was almost doubled over. I thought, "This has got to be food poisoning," which I have had before, but not like this. I decided to go to the hospital, but by the time I got out of the bathroom I could barely walk, I asked the distribution person to call 911.

How stupid is this, I thought, an ambulance for food poisoning. If I weren't in so much pain it would have been funny. The ambulance came and whisked me away to the hospital, Mt. Auburn in Cambridge (if you plan on having a heart attack, this is the place to go for good care, good food, good people), where I told everyone in earshot that my EKG's always come back heart attack. I pretty much knew I wasn't having one, but the emergency room staff checked every nook and cranny just to be on the safe side.

At first, with the stomach pain

they thought I may have had an aortic aneurism; the only thing I knew about that was that's what killed actor John Ritter. I called our executive director, David Jefferson, at the office to let him know what was going on. He then called his mother, who is a doctor, and through him reassured me that I shouldn't panic. Sure enough, I was cleared, but the doctors were baffled at why my blood pressure and my sugar (I'm diabetic) were so high. They decided to keep me for observation and to run a few more tests. They gave me medicine for my stomach and took me to my room.

For the first time in weeks I actually slept soundly and ate well. I was also a pin cushion, which isn't a lot of fun. I got visits and phone calls, there wasn't much I could do so I just relaxed. On Monday they took me down for a stress test which came back inconclusive. Then the cardiologist came to my room with news I didn't really want to hear. He thought I may have some blockage and wanted to give me a heart catheterization, it's one of those things where they go through your vein to your heart and take pictures and if there are any blockages, they put in a stent to keep your blood flowing. I panicked.

I had been fairly lucky up until that point, heart disease runs in my family and it killed my grandfather at 69. When my mom became diabetic at the age of 35, she continually had heart problems until her death at 58. I, on the other hand, had pretty much taken care of myself and I had finally quit smoking. I was also more than a little angry, everything that I had been through this year and now the final shoe drops. My body was going to betray me. But I also had another thought. It's funny how when you think you may be close to the end and you think of how much time you've wasted being caught up in petty little

**SHEARER continued on next page**



# Staying Sober:

## Stress is a Part of Life for Everyone

Aaron James  
Spare Change News



No one's life is easy. Positive stress is natural and healthy. Life is not a game, but without a challenge it can get boring. If a game gets too difficult you have the option of turning

down the difficulty, which is why life is not a game. There is no option of saying, "way too much on my mind I need to turn this back down to easy." With age the difficulty increases as responsibilities dramatically increase. And unlike a game, once you're up to level "medium" you will never see the casual innocence of "easy" again. The goal then becomes to master each level so life can be enjoyable.

Everyone's life will make this progression. Unless you unfortunately do not make it past your teenage years, you must at some point be able to master life at medium, hard, and eventually damn near impossible if you make it to the age when your mind and body are fading. It really is genius when you think about this natural progression of life. You start out completely reliant on others and if you make it through, you end up the same way. By the time you're waiting to pass on it all depends on how your life played out as to if your basic needs are taken care of. Did you

build a family that understands its role in supporting their aging parents? Did you plan ahead correctly, save enough for those last few years?

Once you're in your adulthood, where is the challenge in watching your home team lose in the final rounds in the playoffs? You have lived through so many ups and downs in sports that it all seems the same. However, now old and brittle, the challenge is simply getting out of your seat just to cheer or boo. And while I understand I am far too young to relate to the challenge of old age, all I can say is that this is a natural stress in the progression of life. Brittle bones naturally come with old age. Old age naturally means you made it, you did something correct. You are at that stage, it is natural, deal with the challenge. Again, without the challenge and armed with the knowledge you have reached your life expectancy, what would the point be in living on? How does life stay interesting in those final days if everything is how it was back in your middle ages?

At times I feel I am over stressed. I have so much going on, you could never start to comprehend. Of course, this is ridiculous. Stress is a part of life, for everyone. This was an important lesson I learned while in post-detox last August. In one of our many groups we discussed stress. We were asked to break into two groups. One of groups was asked to list positive stresses while

the other side negative stresses. I ended up on the positive side and was quit bummed about it. At the point the idea of a positive stressors seemed like an oxymoron.

Some negative stressors we came up with included, "no money, broke, bills, no job, overslept, someone died, raped/ murdered, and robbed." The other group came up with a very short list for positive stresses which included, "did not receive a work bonus, late for work, and trying to quit drugs." We were obviously all about to learn a lot if our minds were open and ears willing to listen.

Aside from someone dying and being a victim of a horrible crime, everything else could be a positive stress. At the end of the day, anything could be turned into a positive stress with the right mind set. Take, for example, the stress of being completely broke with no source of income and already behind on bills. This stress can be either of the two depending on how you react to the situation. When you break down this stress, what would the first step be? This is a very similar situation to my own. I was broke, behind on bills, and very little work in large part because of the drinking wrecking my days. This stress led to me finally realizing I cannot handle my drinking; I have a problem with alcohol.

As a result of this stress I quit drinking. And since I have quit drinking I can get up for work every morning.

I can hold a job for more than a few weeks. I can be productive. I can afford my expenses.

How could I call this a negative stress? The stress of being broke with tons of bills led to me to make changes I had to make to bring any sense of order to my life. Without knowing I did so, I turned that stress into a positive challenge.

As a group we were led to believe certain stressors were either negative or positive, which for some hold true. It does not matter when it happens, obviously much tougher when young, losing a loved one is tough. And likewise being victimized is disheartening. However, almost any other stress can be looked at as positive when keeping in mind that without challenges life can become meaningless.

It is almost at a point where I wake up each morning expecting something to go off plan. I wake up with my day scheduled from the night before. My alarm is set, my hours planned, budget for the day written on a note card next to my bed to grab when I leave in the morning. However, it rarely goes as I had planned. I may miss a bus, it may be raining, or maybe the Bruins somehow win the Cup and a parade suddenly needs to be squeezed in for the week; whatever it is, it is a part of life.

AARON JAMES is a vendor/writer for Spare Change News.

### GOLDFINGER continued from previous page

accordance to our own values.

Mitt Romney, one of William's detractors, never had to struggle out of poverty. Neither did former Attorney General Thomas Reilly. Are these two men who would turn in their brothers? What does loyalty mean to a corporate raider who spent his entire life working for his own gain?

The tale of William and Whitey Bulger, two brothers from the proj-

ects of South Boston, is a modern tragedy. The sins of one brother threaten to discredit the accomplishments of the other. William was the hard-working President of the University of Massachusetts; Whitey was a mobster on the run. William Bulger's only crime is that he loves his brother and has a sense of honor that our current society does not share.

In Massachusetts, we are fortunate to have benefitted from the public service of William Bulger in all the posi-

tions of State he has held. Let us hope he receives the respect he is due and is not witch-hunted out of his accomplishments for his brother's misdeeds.

"I do have an honest loyalty to my brother, and I care about him, and I know that's not welcome news, but . . . it's my hope that I'm never helpful to anyone against him," William Bulger testified.

Whitey Bulger is caught now, in steel and stone and chains in the world of the snitch, and yet he is still not crushed.

Two brothers, William and Whitey,

both accomplished and hardened in their own individual ways. Let God stand judgement on the two; no human in today's world can do it.

"Part of this appeared in the Boston Metro on June 10, 2003. It has been altered to meet the current times."

MARC D. GOLDFINGER is a formerly homeless vendor who is now housed. He can be reached at [junkietroll@yahoo.com](mailto:junkietroll@yahoo.com). Marc also has books on [www.smashwords.net](http://www.smashwords.net) that can be downloaded for \$2.99

### SHEARER continued from previous page

things that aren't really that important, and there I was thinking of every one of them.

So what did I do? I called people on my cell until it died, people I truly

care about, some I hadn't spoken to in a while. I thought about the things I wanted to do but had put off, but I also thought about where I am now, and I asked myself if I was going to fight or if I was just going to give up and like so many others that I have known, die

in the street. Here I am feeling sorry for myself these last few weeks, and yes this has been hard, it's sad and depressing, but I've got so much to be positive about and that's what I need to think about to get through all of this. I had my test and everything came back fine, and

from here on I will never take anything for granted again.

JAMES SHEARER is a founding member of Spare Change News and current board president of the Homeless Empowerment Project.



# The 11th Annual Spring Fling at Pine Street Inn's Woman's Inn

Beatrice Bell  
Street News Service

On May 25 I attended the 11th annual Spring Fling at Pine Street Inn Women's Inn. People had lunch from 11:30am and were finished by 12:15pm. Music played on the stereo system from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to make the place feel cheery and happy for all the ladies that attended and participated in helping to set up the tables, chairs and decorations. 1 p.m. was when the partying started. This year's event included performances by staff, guests and residents. The theme for the event was the 1970's.

(Everything was put together by Jennifer Payne who I introduced you to at Christmas when I wrote about Pine Street Inn and Rosie's Place. Jennifer is

the Supervisor of Advocacy and Case Management at The Women's Inn.)

This year for the first time we had two transgenders participate in the event and we had actual men come through as part of act three.

First up was Andrea' and The PSI Uniques. They blew the roof off the place when they sang; The World is an Open Window. It sounded like a church concert mixed with a rock concert. The second group up after Andrea' and The PSI Uniques was The Soliid Gold Dancers starring Jennifer Payne and several guests. They did a combination of the Electric Slide with the dance John Travolta did in Saturday Night Fever starring the theme song Night Fever by The Bee Gees.

Group Three starred a friend of mine; Patsy Rector and several other acquaintances of ours. Some work for the shelter like Patsy some don't. Patsy and the other women did their rendition of; It's Raining Men by The Weathergirls. They were Hot. On the second chorus six to seven men walked through the crowd of women. I've never heard so much hoopin' and hollerin' before except on a TV show starring The Chippendale Dancers. The ladies were having a ball over at The Women's Inn.

The fourth group starred Jennifer Payne again with Sonia and Naomi doing backup vocals to Donna Summer's song On The Radio. To end everything they did a fashion show to Donna Summer's song; Hot Stuff.

Food was light and music plentiful but best of all was the fun that everybody had.

Last year I participated in Spring Fling and this year I'm writing about it. It was more fun for me doing it last year rather than writing about it this year. I used up three rolls of film taking pictures because of how much fun people were having. I even got into the spirit of the moment by singing a few songs on the stereo system. I enjoyed singing Ray Charles' Georgia On My Mind, Night Fever by The Bee Gees and several other songs. I'm hoping next year's Spring Fling is even more fun.

BEATRICE BELL is a vendor/writer for Spare Change News.

## Getting A LIFT:

### Bike Program Provides Affordable Transportation for 32 Homeless/Low Income Individuals in Cambridge and Boston



Adam Sennott  
Spare Change News

Thirty-two homeless individuals rolled through the streets of Cambridge and Boston after receiving free bikes helmets and locks on May 27th and June 1st.

LIFT, a national organization dedicated to fighting poverty throughout the country, held bike giveaways in Boston and Cambridge on May 27th and June 1st as part of The LIFT Bike Project's Earn a Bike Program. This year's giveaways were attend by Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Cambridge Mayer David Maher. In order to receive a bike, participants had to volunteer 10 hours of community service and attend a mandatory bike safety session.

The idea behind the LIFT Earn a Bike Project began two and a half years ago when Liz Powers, a volunteer for LIFT, noticed that many of LIFT's clients were having difficulty affording public transportation. After realizing how common this issue had become, Powers started thinking of a way to provide these clients with a free sustaining means of

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methodologies designed to combat homelessness. McGah is founder and executive director of Give US Your Poor: The Campaign to End Homelessness, based at the UMass Boston McCormack School. Stroh, principal of consultancy Bridgeway Partners, possesses 30 years of expertise "enabling leaders to apply systems approaches to solve complex, chronic problems" such as homelessness.

Working together and separately, Stroh and McGah employ unconventional methodologies that, among other things, shed light on many practices that are unfortunately in wide use today as part of efforts to ameliorate homelessness. Often these practices simply don't work, or even make problems worse, according to the speakers. Luckily, there's an antidote to what McGah and Stroh characterize as the flawed (or limited) "conventional thinking" that hinders effective solutions to homelessness. This antidote is called "systems thinking."

Stroh and McGah explained that

the conventional thinking commonly employed in attempts to solve homelessness is different from, and produces less effective results, than systems thinking. The two spoke on many possibilities overlooked by big organizations, such as the potential relationships and connections between smaller problems faced. Often organizations, they argued, were able to see their side of the situation clearly, but because no one organization is likely to see how the entire system operates we often unwittingly create our own problems or fail to cover all of the problems.

Emergency shelters, Stroh argued as an example, are often the product of short-term, narrowly focused conventional thinking. "If we can put a roof over someone's head, we don't have a problem anymore; out of sight out of mind," said Stroh. "Citizens and officials are happy; there's no more funding required. And shelter providers are happy, too" since they're getting funded for their services. But, Stroh challenged the audience, is the homeless person in question any closer to getting

permanent housing?

Instead of system thinking, such as the ability to be wary of creating our own problems or watching for how problems are connected and hidden, many organizations resort to what Stroh called conventional thinking. Under conventional thinking, problems causing homelessness are obvious and on-the-surface. Stroh also identified conventional thinkers as those that pass the blame to other organizations; many organizations just assume others need to do more, or assume that their own organization is only unsuccessful because it can't influence those that can make major changes.

Thus, it seems, Stroh would have us conclude that "reality-based" systems thinking - that takes into account complexity and interdependency - is likely to produce better outcomes than conventional thinking, which stands a greater chance of being influenced by less accurate, or prejudiced, thinking of various kinds.

Contributing his expertise to the audience-participation segment of the

workshop was Tim Davis, an independent researcher and senior associate at the McCormack School Center for Social Policy. Davis recently released a report detailing issues concerning access to affordable housing in Massachusetts. McGah tapped Davis to lead an hour-long breakout group, consisting of half the workshop attendees, on the topic of how to find affordable housing - using a systems-thinking approach. McGah guided the other half of the group in the use of systems thinking to brainstorm solutions to prevent homelessness.

Solving homelessness would seem simple enough - given sufficient funds and goodwill. And yet, the discipline of systems thinking, and the facts on the ground, indicate otherwise. Says Stroh: systems thinking is about "understanding the complexity of the problem. Understanding that the obvious solution won't necessarily get you a permanent roof over your head. It's not so much about policies, but how you think. ... All of us have a role and a responsibility for making the system work better."

SENNOTT continued from previous page

transportation.

"I have been volunteering at LIFT for the past four years and a recurring issue was the lack of social services for transportation," said Powers. "I couldn't refer clients to anything. There's discounted pass for disabilities on the T but for a client that wasn't disabled there wasn't any assistance."

A short while later, Powers was able to start working on finding used bicycles from within the community and then getting them refurbished. In the fall of 2009 LIFT held its first Bike Giveaway, distributing five bikes, helmets and locks. In the Spring of 2010, during their second Bike Giveaway, LIFT distributed ten bikes helmets and locks to homeless low income individuals within the community.

As part of the program, recipients are required to volunteer within the community and attend a safety session before receiving their bike. Recipients are allowed choose where they will do their volunteer work. Places that have worked with the program included The Greater Boston Food Bank, The Student Youth Community Center and the Cambridge Learning Center.

"Everyone who applies has to volunteer at least ten hours to earn their bike and attend a mandatory safety session," said Powers. "People can decide where they want to volunteer. We have a sheet where the bike applicant writes down where they volunteered and the number of hours and the date. Then it's signed by the supervisor."

Many of the bikes distributed through the Cambridge Bike Giveaway are provided by the Cambridge Department of

Public Works, which collects abandoned bikes from throughout Cambridge and donates them to LIFT.

"Most of [the bikes] we get from the Cambridge DPW. We have a partnership with them," said Powers. "They collect abandoned bikes throughout the city and they keep them for at least a month in case they accidentally took a bike that wasn't abandoned. After a month they donate them to our program."

"We try to accept mostly bikes in fairly good condition; we have limited grant money so we can't spend a lot on new parts. But sometimes we take bikes that aren't in very good condition because we can use the parts from there on other bikes."

This spring, LIFT was able to provide applicants with 32 bikes, helmets and locks between the Cambridge and Boston bike giveaways. The bike give-

away in Cambridge was attended by Mayor Maher, while the Boston bike giveaway was attended by Mayor Menino.

In addition to both mayors showing up to their cities respective giveaway, LIFT also received support with the Boston bike giveaway from Roll it Forward, a program run through Mayor Menino's office that aims distribute 1,000 repaired and refurbished bikes into Boston neighborhoods.

"Our main partner for the Boston bike giveaway was Roll it Forward, they were a blessing," said Powers. "They provided all of the refurbished bikes helmets and locks for the Boston bike giveaway."

ADAM SENNOTT was the Editor of *Spare Change News* from July 2010-July 2011.



## FOR SALE

### Comic Book Collection

Spiderman, Superman, Hulk, Daredevil, X-Men, Planetary, Green Lantern, etc. 28 full boxes, bags & boards. Variants, signed by Michael Turner, Greg Pak, etc. - no pick & choose. \$2500 or B. O. Call before 9pm. 617-484-5598



## The President's Cabinet

There are 15 major departments in the U.S. Cabinet. Can you spot the three ringers?



## Sudoku

			7				9	
		5						4
	6		2		5			
5				4		7		3
2		4		6				5
			1		6		8	
3						4		
	9				2			

Fill in the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number from 1 to 9.

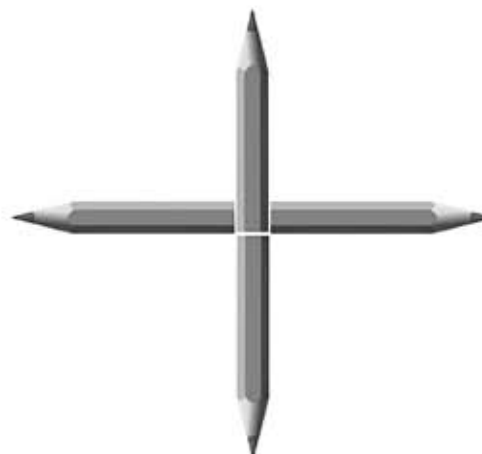
## Word Scramble

Identify the nine words below which have something to do with journalism. As an incentive, the first letter of each word is provided.

ieordt	E	_____
pepewarnes	N	_____
ltoniscum	C	_____
datshame	M	_____
optican	C	_____
yelibn	B	_____
euratef	F	_____
uoatyl	L	_____
caintruolic	C	_____

## Pencils Squared

Can you make a square by moving one pencil?



## In Appreciation . . .

Of your support of *Spare Change News* these nineteen years, and to our outgoing editor and executive director, and everyone who helped make our gala a success, . . .

A <b>Merci</b>	D <b>Xie Xie</b>	G <b>Spasibo</b>	K <b>Grazie</b>
B <b>Todah</b>	C <b>Gracias</b>	F <b>Thank you</b>	H <b>Arigato</b>
E <b>Asante</b>	I <b>Danke</b>	J <b>Cam on</b>	

Chinese\_\_ Dutch\_\_ English\_\_ French\_\_ German\_\_ Hebrew\_\_ Italian\_\_ Japanese\_\_ Russian\_\_ Spanish\_\_ Swahili\_\_ Vietnamese\_\_

## Solutions to last issue's puzzles



1



TYPEWRITER



- A Water
- B Vinegar
- C Salt
- D Aspirin
- E Baking Soda
- F Cream of Tartar
- G Club Soda

9	8	1	2	4	6	5	7	3
6	2	4	3	7	5	8	9	1
7	3	5	8	9	1	4	6	2
1	7	9	4	2	8	6	3	5
2	5	3	6	1	9	7	8	4
8	4	6	7	5	3	2	1	9
5	9	8	1	6	4	3	2	7
3	1	7	5	8	2	9	4	6
4	6	2	9	3	7	1	5	8



## Food

### DAILY MEALS:

*Boston Rescue Mission*

39 Kingston ST., Boston

Community meals: 3pm weekdays, and 5pm Sundays

(no Saturdays).

*Pine Street Inn*

444 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-482-4944

Breakfast: 6 a.m.; brown bag lunches during the day;

Dinner: 5 p.m.; Chicken truck: 11:30 a.m.

*Rosie's Place* (women & children only, no boys over age 11)

889 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-442-9322

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Dinner: 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

*St. Francis House*

39 Boylston St., Boston, 617-542-4211

Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.; Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Emergency sandwiches: Weekdays 2:45 p.m. – 3 p.m.

*Salvation Army* 402 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-547-3400

Lunch: 12 p.m.

*Women's Lunch Place* (women & children only, no boys over age 14, male presence discouraged)

67 Newbury St., Boston., 617-267-0200

Open Mon. – Sat., 7 a.m. – 2p.m.

www.womenslunchplace.org

### WEEKLY MEALS

#### Monday:

*Boston Rescue Mission*

39 Kingston ST., Boston

Food pantry: 9-11am (except holidays). Bring proof

of address.

*Church of the Holy Resurrection*

64 Harvard Ave., Allston, 617-787-7625

6 p.m. – 7 p.m. and take-out.

*Mass. Ave. Baptist Church.* 146 Hampshire St., Cambridge, 617-868-4853. 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday:

*Church of the Advent*

30 Brimmer St., Boston, 617-523-2377 6 p.m.

*First Parish Unitarian Church*

3 Church St., Cambridge, 617-876-7772

6 p.m. – 7 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

*Faith Kitchen, Faith Lutheran Church*

311 Broadway, Cambridge, 617-354-0414

6:30 p.m. (second & last Tuesday of every month)

#### Wednesday:

*Salvation Army* 402 Mass. Ave., Cambridge,

617-547-3400 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

#### Thursday:

*Christ Church,* Zero Garden St. Cambridge,

617-876-0200 6 p.m. *St. James Church*

1991 Mass. Ave, Cambridge

*The Women's Meal (Women and children welcome)*

5 p.m. – 7 p.m. (food pantry 3 days/week)

*Union Baptist Church*

874 Main St., Cambridge, 617-864-6885. 5 p.m.

#### Friday:

*Arlington St. Church*

351 Boylston St., Boston, 617-536-7050 5 p.m.

*Food Not Bombs*

Boston Common (near Park St. T station), 617-522-8277

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

*Mass. Ave. Baptist Church.* 146 Hampshire St., Cambridge, 617-868-4853 6 p.m. -- 7:30 p.m.

#### Saturday:

*Pilgrim Church* 540 Columbia Rd, Dorchester

approx 8:45 (*Boston Commons, near fountain*)

We serve soup, pasta, coffee, juice, pastries, sandwiches, and clothing once a month.

12-1:30 pm

We offer a free community lunch, it is a cafe style, and we serve the guests, no standing in line. The meals are hot and made with love by our very talented chef

#### Sunday:

*Food Not Bombs.* 955 Mass Ave (617) 787-3436

Central Square Cambridge on Sundays from 3-5pm.

### FOOD ASSISTANCE

*Greater Boston Food Bank,* 617-427-5200

Serves non-profit organizations such as agencies, shelters, etc.

Office hours: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

*Project Bread* • 617-723-5000; Hotline 1-800-645-8333

Referrals to food pantries throughout the city

*Somerville Food Pantry* • 617-776-7687

Food pantry: Mon, Tue, Fri 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m.; Wed 12 p.m. -- 4 p.m.; Thu 1 p.m. -- 4 p.m.

Somerville residents only. Those unable to use other pantries due to disability may call and ask for the Project Soup Delivery Coordinator.

*Brookline Food Pantry*

15 St. Paul St., Brookline, 617-566-4953

Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m. -- 4 p.m.

Brookline residents only. Second-time visitors must present a letter from an advocate confirming that they are in need of food services.

*CEOC (Cambridge Economic Opportunity Commission)*

11 Inman St. (basement), Cambridge, 617-868-2900

Food pantry: Mon, Wed 4 p.m. -- 6 p.m.; Tue 12 p.m. -- 2 p.m.; Thu 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Closed Fri.

*East End House*

105 Spring St., Cambridge, 617-876-4444

Food pantry: Tue 9 a.m. -- 2 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m. -- 12 p.m.

Offers assistance in filling out food stamp applications (call for appointment).

*Margaret Fuller Houses*

71 Cherry St., Cambridge, 617-547-4680

Food pantry: Wed. 5 p.m. -- 7 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m. -- 12 p.m.

& 6 p.m. -- 7:30 p.m.; Fri & Sat 9 a.m. -- 12 p.m.

*Pentecostal Tabernacle Church* • 617-661-0222

Food pantry by appointment only; no deliveries or walk-ins; referrals to other food pantries

*Salvation Army*

402 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 617-547-3400

Cambridge and Somerville residents only.

Food pantry: 9 a.m. -- 3 p.m. & by appointment

*St. Francis House*

39 Boylston St., Boston, 617-542-4211

Food pantry: Mon. – Fri. 10 a.m. -- 11 a.m.

Sign up at the Counseling Desk in the St. Francis House Day Center

*St. James Church*

1191 Mass. Ave, Cambridge

Food pantry: Tues. 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Thurs. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.;

Sat. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

*St. Paul's Ane Church*

85 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, 617-661-1110

Food pantry: Wed. 12 p.m. -- 2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

*Western Ave. Baptist Church*

299 Western Ave.,Cambridge, 617-661-0433

Food pantry: Every second Wed., 10 a.m.

*Zinberg Clinic Pantry at Cambridge Hospital* 617-665-1606

For clinic patients with HIV / AIDS only.

Food pantry: Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fair Foods \$2 a bag;

CAMBRIDGE, St. Paul's Church

29 Mt. Auburn St

Harvard Sq. Red Line

Saturdays 10-11

SOMERVILLE, Cobble Hill Apts

84 Washington St. Back parking lot (near Sullivan Sq.)

Every other Wed. 11:30-1

Mt. Pleasant Apts. 70 Perkins St. (off Broadway)

Every other Wed. 1:30 - 2:30

Hearty Meals for All

Somerville Community Baptist Church

31 College Ave. Somerville, MA 02144

Free Community Meals the second Friday of every month at 6:30pm

## Homeless Concerns

*The Women's Center*

46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, 617-354-8807

Computers, kitchen, space, children's room, and more.

Walk-ins welcome.

Women & children only (no boys over age 12)

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-3pm.

*Cambridge Multi-Service Center*

19 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-349-6340

City-run agency with additional community non-profit partners. Works with Cambridge families in shelters, provides shelter referrals and other housing assistance. Employs housing specialists for elderly and disabled.

Office hours: Mon. 8:30 a.m. -- 8 p.m.; Tue., Wed., Thu. 8:30 a.m. -- 5 p.m.; Fri. 8:30 a.m. -- 12 p.m. Walk-ins accepted.

*Cardinal Medeiros Center*

25 Isabella St., Boston, 617-619-6960

Day center for homeless adults (50 years & older); mental health & nursing staff; help with housing searches.

Lunch served at 11:45 a.m.

Office hours: Mon. - Thu. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*Caspar*

240 Albany St., Cambridge, 617-661-0600

Open 24 hrs / day; emergency shelter open 4:30 p.m. -- 8

a.m.; Clients who leave in the morning may not return

until 3 p.m.; Clients staying multiple nights must prove recent local residency.

*CLASP (Community Legal Assistance Services Project)*

19 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-552-0623

Free legal clinic for Cambridge homeless at the Multi-Service Center every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

*Ecclesia Ministries*

67 Newbury Street, Boston., 617-552-0623

Weekly Schedule for the Common Cathedral:

Sunday

- Worship at Brewer's Fountain on Boston Common, 1 pm

- Gospel Reflection at St. Paul's Cathedral, 138 Tremont St., 2:30 p.m. -- 4 p.m.

Monday

- Lunch at Sproat Hall (St. Paul's Cathedral) 11:30 a.m. --1 p.m.

-Eucharist & Healing (St. Paul's Cathedral) 1 p.m.

- Common Fellowship in Sproat Hall (St. Paul's Cathedral) 2 p.m. --3 p.m.

Wednesday

- Common Art at the Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, 10 a.m. -- 3 p.m.

Friday

- Common Cinema in Sproat Hall (St. Paul's Cathedral) 2:30 p.m. -- 5 p.m.

*Horizons for Homeless Children*

617-445-1480; www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org

Horizons for Homeless Children is seeking volunteers to interact and play with children living in family, teen parent, and domestic violence shelters in Greater Boston. We offer daytime and evening shifts, so there is likely to be one that fits your schedule. A commitment of 2 hours a week for 6 months is required. The next training session will be Sat., Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m.

*Medical Walk-in Unit at Mass General Hospital*

617-726-2707

Provides minor medical care for adults. Patients are seen in order of arrival. MGH accepts most insurances but requires copayments.

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat., Sun., Holidays 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving & Christmas

*Boston Rescue Mission*

39 Kingston ST., Boston

Safe & Healthy men's overnight shelter program.

*Rosie's Place*

889 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-442-9322

Women and children only (no boys over age 11)

Open 7 days a week; provides help with housing, medical care, job training, financial aid and education, legal services, rape crisis counselors, health specialists, and more.

*St. Francis House*

39 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-542-4211

Meals offered 365 days / yr.; food pantry open weekdays.

Offers a mailroom, open art studio, clothing lottery, computer library, support groups such as AA, showers, telephones, toothbrushes & razors, medical clinic, counseling & mental health services, housing counseling & stabilization services, & a women's center.

For more details on these services and for their specific times visit [www.stfranchishouse.org](http://www.stfranchishouse.org)

*Starlight Ministries.* 617-262-4567

Outreach van with food, clothing, blankets and worship

Hours: Wed. 8 p.m. by Park Street T station on the Boston Common.

*Streetlight Outreach*

Wednesdays at 8:00 PM

Harvard T-Station (The Pit); Porter Square T-Station

Volunteers work weekly to serve the homeless who live in Harvard and Porter Squares. Volunteer teams give away warm food and beverages, clothing and counsel to those in need. Streetlight volunteers also lead an outdoor worship service for the entire community.

*The Women's Center*

46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, 617-354-8807

Computers, kitchen and rooms. Walk-ins welcome.

Women & children only (no boys over age 16).

Hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-- 8 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. -- 3 p.m.

*On The Rise*

341 Broadway, Cambridge, 617-497-7968

Women only. Home-base during the day and advocacy services. Open six days / week. First-time visitors, call ahead or stop by Mon-Sat, 8-2pm.

*The Outdoor Church of Cambridge*

The Outdoor Church of Cambridge is an outdoor ministry to homeless men and women in Cambridge. Prayer services and pastoral assistance outdoors in all seasons and all weather. Short prayer services in Porter Square, under the mobile sculpture near the T station, at 9:00 AM and on the Cambridge Common, near the tall Civil War monument and directly across from Christ Church Cambridge on Garden Street, at 1:00 PM every Sunday, throughout the year. Sandwiches, pastry, juice and clean white socks available in Harvard Square and Central Square. (978)456-0047, 39 Brown Road, Harvard, Massachusetts 01451 jedman-nis@charter.net; www.theoutdoorchurch.net.

*Victory Programs, Inc.*

www.vpi.org. Short and long-term residential substance use disorder treatment programs for individuals and families; affordable housing opportunities for eligible individuals; HIV / AIDS case management. Sites throughout Boston Please call for more information. (617) 541-0222 ext. 626

*Legal Aid:*

*Lawyers Clearinghouse,* 617-723-0885

*Shelter Legal Services (Newton),* 617-965-0449

*The Homeless Eyecare Network of Boston (HEN-Boston)*

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to maintaining a constantly undated network of affordable and free eyecare services for the homeless. If you need an eye exam or glasses, please visit our website, [www.hen-boston.org](http://www.hen-boston.org).

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## The Homeless Empowerment Project's Speakers Bureau

Ever wonder what it's like to be homeless? Want to learn more about it while at the same time supporting the Homeless Empowerment Project, publisher of Spare Change and Whats Up?

- Then take a look at our Speakers Bureau. -

You've probably already seen a lot of our dedicated vendors selling papers at various T stops around Cambridge & Boston, but now here's your chance to actually hear their personal stories and learn from their experiences.

Most of our vendors are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and all have experienced severe economic disadvantage. They are a diverse and hard-working group of men and women with stories to inspire and educate us all.

The Speakers Bureau is the perfect way for teachers, professors, community organizations or congregation leaders to educate their groups and put a human face on the realities of poverty and homelessness here in Mass.

Invite a vendor to come speak to your organization, school or congregation by contacting our main office at 617.497.1595 or emailing us at [director@sparechangenews.net](mailto:director@sparechangenews.net).

# ATTENTION VETERANS!

Thank You For Serving Our Country

The Bunker Hill Community College Veterans Center Serves More Than 400 Veterans



**I WANT YOU**  
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- The camaraderie of other veterans

**The Veterans Center** is located in the Main Lobby  
of the Charlestown Campus

Hours: Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Thu. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information contact Stephen Roy at **617-228-3213**

or email [veteranscenter@bhcc.mass.edu](mailto:veteranscenter@bhcc.mass.edu)



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